Regulatory Authority for Higher Education

*256. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
.SHRIMATI SHQBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether, seeking reforms in the present education system, the National Knowledge Commission has urged Prime Minister to initiate a move to establish an independent Regulatory Authority for Higher Education;

(b) if so, whether in a letter to the Prime Minister, NKC Chairman has pointed out that the present regulatory system in higher education is flawed in some important respect's and the barriers to entry are too high; and

(c) if so, the steps being considered by the Prime Minister in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Report of the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) on Higher Education was sent by the Planning Commission to the Ministries concerned.

Vacancies of OBC category

*257. SHRI ABU ASIMAZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 27 per cent quota earmarked for filling up vacancies of OBC category has never been filled in the All India Civil Services examination in the twelve years since it was implemented;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and if not, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the shortfall has been steadily growing; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to fill up the entire quota of 27 per cent earmarked for them by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCESAND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.